

ARTICLE APPEARED

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Voice of the people

Westmoreland, CBS and the libel laws

KILDEER, Ill.—I think The Tribune does protest too much [Sunday, Dec. 9 editorial] about our libel laws.

Gen. William Westmoreland has been victimized by the same shoddy and injurious reporting that you seem to believe can only occur in sleazy magazines and supermarket tabloids. I don't think Gen. Westmoreland is trying to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War; rather, he is demanding truthful reporting by CBS.

Likewise, the CIA, denied the protection of the courts, certainly has the right to use every legal method

to protect itself from the libelous statement of ABC, a statement that ABC admits it has no basis for making.

Hitler's propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, said that if you tell a lie often enough it becomes the truth. Unfortunately, our newspapers and broadcast media seem at times to be as adept at the big lie as Mr. Goebbels. The test of history proved Goebbels the liar that he was but it did little for the millions who were victimized by him. Maybe the libel laws are the only protection left for Mr. Average Citizen or retired general. Jack Latter